

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

15

DECISION

TOPIC

Final Rule—Chapter 98, Wild Turkey Spring Hunting

The Commission is requested to adopt a final rule to amend Chapter 571 – 98, Wild Turkey Spring Hunting. Chapter 571 – 98 provides the regulations for hunting wild turkeys during the spring and include season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and method of take, and transportation tag requirements.

The proposed amendments clarify the language that defines who is eligible for free landowner tenant licenses and makes them the same for both the turkey and deer seasons.

Ken Herring, Administrator
Conservation and Recreation Division
June 12, 2008

Attachment: Chapter 98, Wild Turkey Spring Hunting Final Rule

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 98, "Wild Turkey Spring Hunting," Iowa Administrative Code.

This rule gives the regulations for hunting wild turkeys during the spring and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and method of take, and transportation tag requirements.

The proposed amendments clarify and make the language that defines who is eligible for free landowner tenant licenses the same for both the turkey and deer seasons.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 9, 2008 as ARC 6698B. A public hearing was held on April 29, 2008 and no comments were received. Four written comments were received including the request that licenses be allowed to hunt in all seasons and that the bag limit be increased. No changes were made based upon these comments.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, 483A.1 and 483A.7. These amendments shall become effective August 20, 2008.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571--98.5(1)(483A) as follows:

~~98.5(1) Who qualifies for a free turkey hunting license. Owners or tenants of a farm unit, or a member of an owner or tenant's family who resides with the owner or tenant, are eligible for free wild turkey spring hunting licenses. The owner or tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit but must be actively engaged in farming it. Nonresident landowners do not qualify. For purposes of obtaining a free wild turkey spring hunting license, all the land under the lawful control of a landowner and eligible family members or a tenant and eligible family members shall be considered as one farm unit, regardless of how that land is subdivided for agricultural or business purposes.~~

a. Owners and tenants of a farm unit and the spouse or domestic partner and juvenile child of an owner or tenant who reside with the owner or tenant are eligible for free turkey licenses. The owner or tenant does not have to reside on the farm unit but must be actively engaged in farming it. Nonresident landowners do not qualify.

b. Juvenile child defined. "Juvenile child" means a person less than 18 years of age or a person who is 18 or 19 years of age and is in full-time attendance at an accredited school pursuing a course of study leading to a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma. A person 18 years of age or older who has received a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma does not qualify.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 571--98.5(6)(483A) as follows:

98.5(6) Where free licenses are valid. A free license is valid only on the farm unit of the landowner or tenant. "Farm unit" means all parcels of land that are at least two contiguous acres in size, that are operated as a unit for agricultural purposes and ~~that~~ are under lawful control of the landowner or tenant regardless of how that land is subdivided for business purposes. Individual parcels of land do not need to be adjacent to one another to be included in the farm unit. "Agricultural purposes" includes but is not limited to field crops, livestock, horticultural

crops (e.g., from nurseries, orchards, truck farms, or Christmas tree plantations), and land managed for timber production.

Date

Richard A. Leopold, Director

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